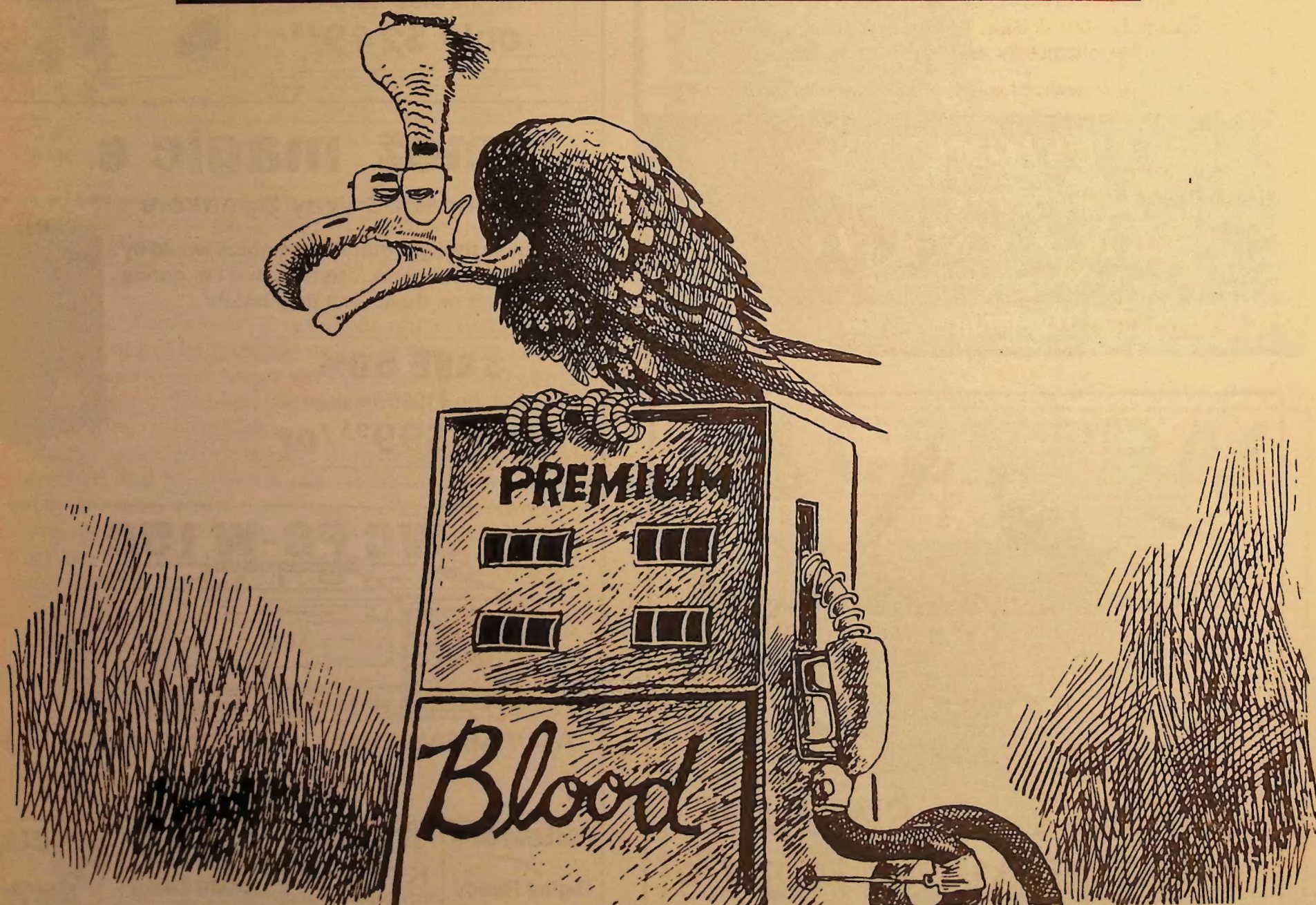


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#27



Exclusive interview with **JOHNNY CLEGG**

The internationally acclaimed South African musician
and long time leader in the battle against apartheid assesses
the political climate since the release of Nelson Mandela.

(See page 6)





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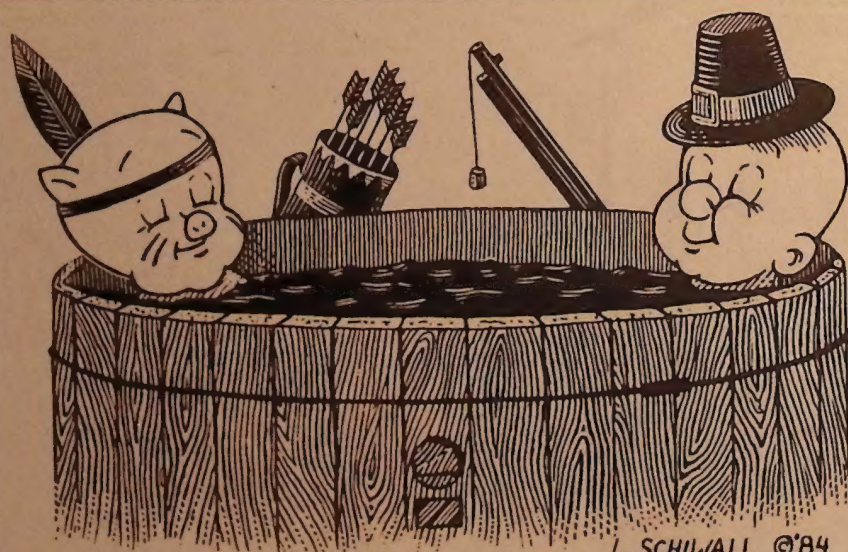
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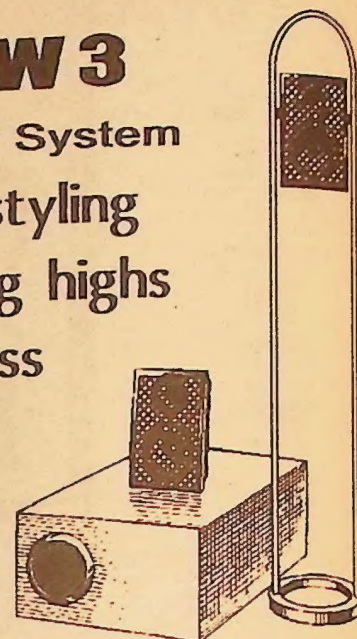
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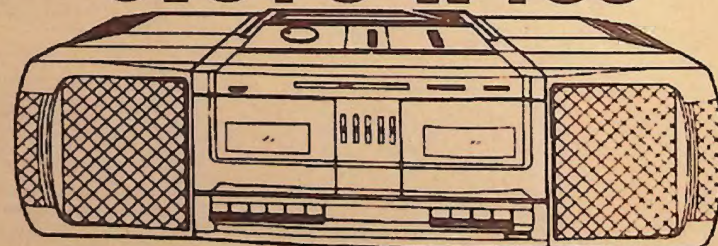
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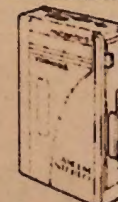
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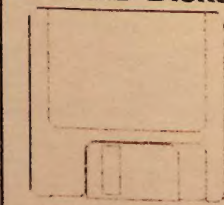
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This issue of the Comic News opens a new door for us in the world of publishing. We intend to continue to bring you informative interviews with prominent artists and social leaders. We hope you enjoy them and we are always open to your input.

Many thanks go out to our fabulous phantom of a photographer and of course to Izzy Gesell for his tenacious desire to create at the same time spelling everything correctly. Thank you also to Capitol Records and Peter Himberger of Alive Enterprises for arranging the interview with Johnny Clegg.

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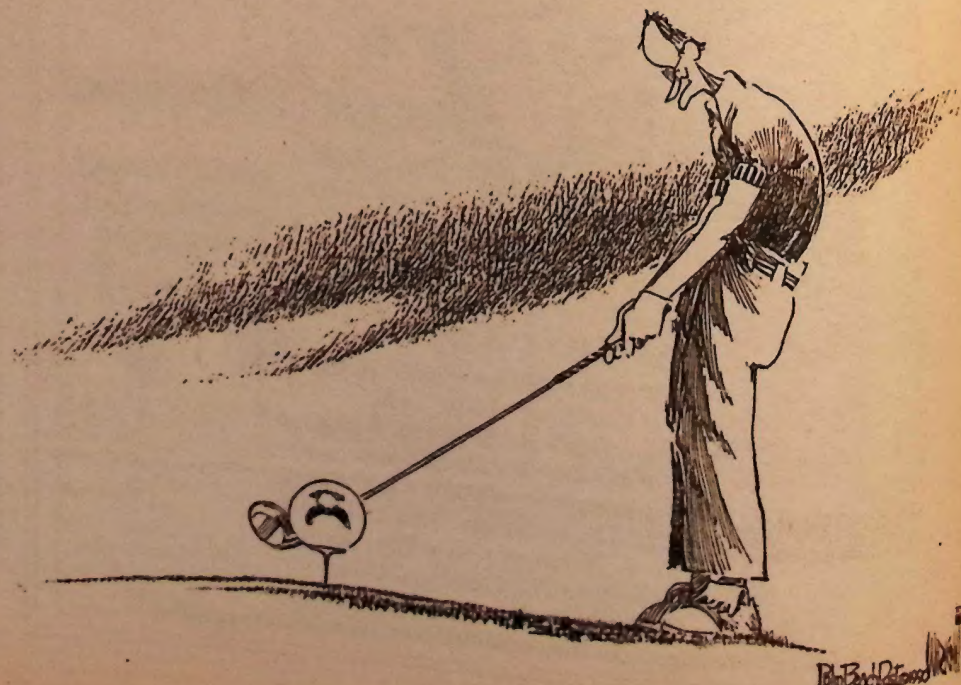
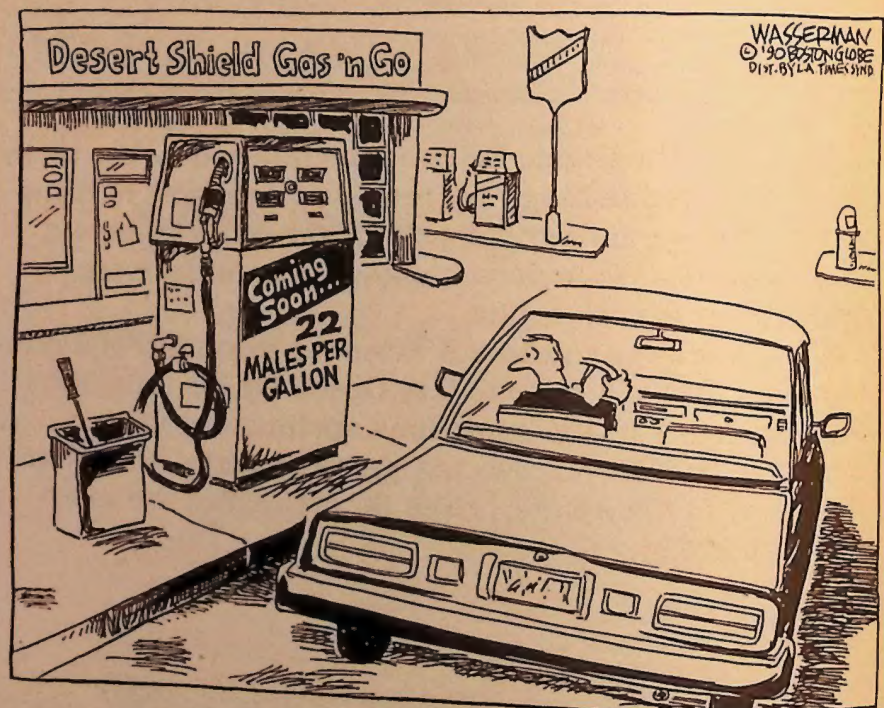
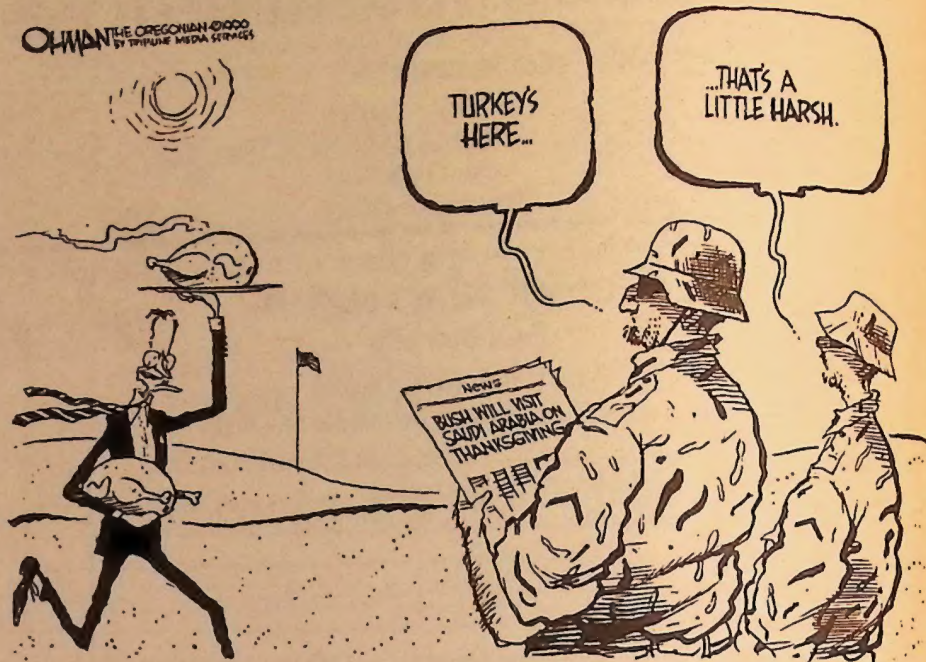
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THE COMIC NEWS INTERVIEWS JOHNNY CLEGG

by Izzy Gesell



The Comic News caught up with Johnny Clegg by phone on his tour through New England.

Comic News: Events in South Africa since Nelson Mandela's release from prison indicate change is beginning to happen there. Are you satisfied with the rate of change so far?

Johnny Clegg: Events as they are unfolding now show that South Africa's future is definitely open ended. A proposed September conference was just postponed to June. The longer the ANC (African National Congress) procrastinates the more power they give to new emerging political coalitions and alliances.

CN: Is that something you are in favor of?

JC: I don't mind it. But the issue of Nelson Mandela as a figure becomes secondary because the country basically is going to take on a whole new political direction. The role of the ANC will become determined by that direction instead of the ANC determining the political terrain. They will be in a position where they are reacting to new events all the time.

CN: So Nelson Mandela was the flashpoint to get it started?

JC: I think that's the way things are going to go on if, as I say, this procrastination doesn't stop. I think PAC (Pan African Congress) has a growing militant following among black youth. There are so many different dynamics happening at the moment and so many different possibilities. Also, the South African Communist Party is very well organized and they might feel that the ANC is deadwood.

CN: What effect will the realignment of the superpowers have on South Africa, apartheid and the political situation?

JC: I think it weakens the both the ANC and the Communist Party tremendously. The realignment has taken away the validity of those movements because their funding and their social-economic pro

grams were strongly influenced by the Communist Party. The fact that the Communist monolith has collapsed means the Communist Party has to come up with some kind of a new deal.

CN: Do you think in the long run that bodes well?

JC: Of course. It just removes all that Stalinist bullshit.

CN: Can apartheid can be brought down without civil war?

JC: I think the question of civil war is really related most strongly to the right wing.

CN: By the people who refuse to give up their power?

JC: Yes. Or those who want to transfer it in a way that guarantees certain white privileges. There are so many contending forces it is possible, through coalitions and other kinds of decentralized politics, that certain bargains can be struck and certain minimum conditions met. I think that's what we are all hoping for.

CN: The civil war here brought about the abolishment of slavery but didn't change many Americans fear and ignorance about racial matters. Do you think something like this is in store for South Africa?

JC: I think we have a decidedly different kind of situation numberswise. In America you had more of a moral white majority trying to enforce a moral decision on behalf of a black minority. You have a black majority in South Africa which is working the moral issue against a white minority that is now split for and against the change. I think there's a slight difference there.

CN: From your perspective as a South African, what is your sense of the state of racial equality in America?

JC: I haven't actually been in a situation where I could live and

(Continued on page 12)

The force created by the conjunction of music and politics can be tremendous. Woody Guthrie with unionization, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young with Kent State and Johnny Clegg with Apartheid exemplify the role popular music plays in introducing truth into the lair of lies nurtured by so many politicians.

Johnny Clegg is touring the world in support of his thirteenth album, *CRUEL, CRAZY, BEAUTIFUL WORLD*. Clegg, a 36 year old South African, leads a racially varied band called Savuka (Zulu for "we have arisen") which merges traditional Zulu rhythms and contemporary rock. The ability to walk the line between musician and social commentator is one of Clegg's gifts.

At the age of 12 Clegg began to learn Zulu music, language and dancing. As he grew older his love for the Zulu people and traditions as well as his desire to work for equality led him on an odyssey that included a integrated band called Juluka (Zulu for "sweat"), being inducted into three Zulu clans and being married in a Zulu ceremony. Harassed, arrested and at times banned from the airwaves in South Africa, Clegg continues to this day to champion the concept of unity through diversity.

If apartheid ever becomes just a memory Johnny Clegg will have had a great deal to do with the failing of that system by his refusal to acquiesce and his continuing commitment to speak out. Politics aside, Clegg will always be listened to because his music is so good.



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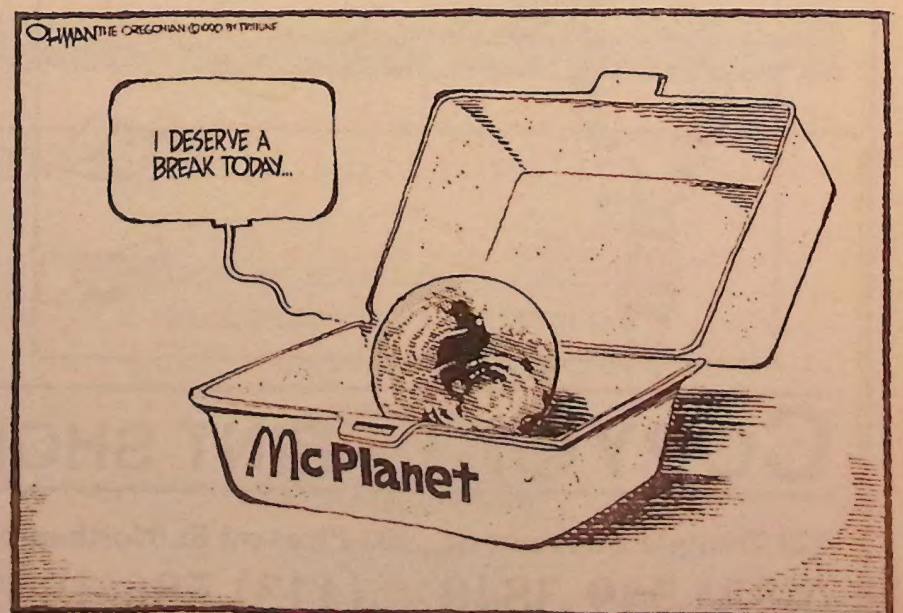
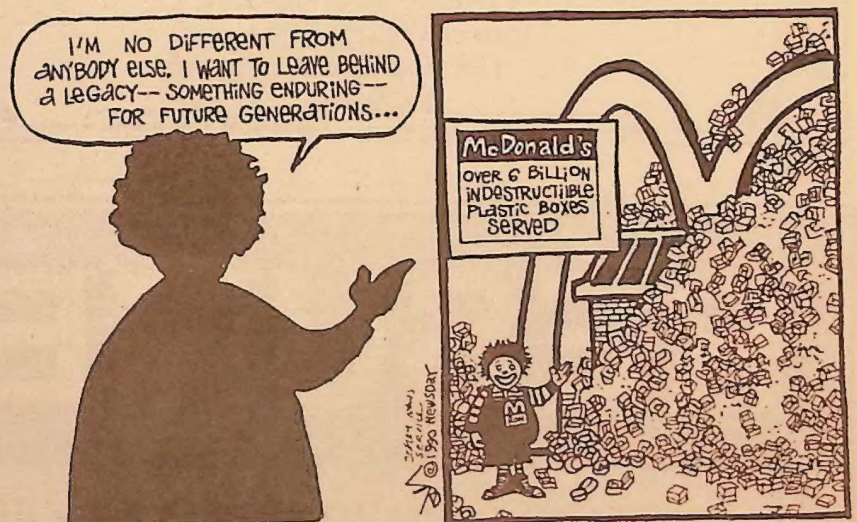
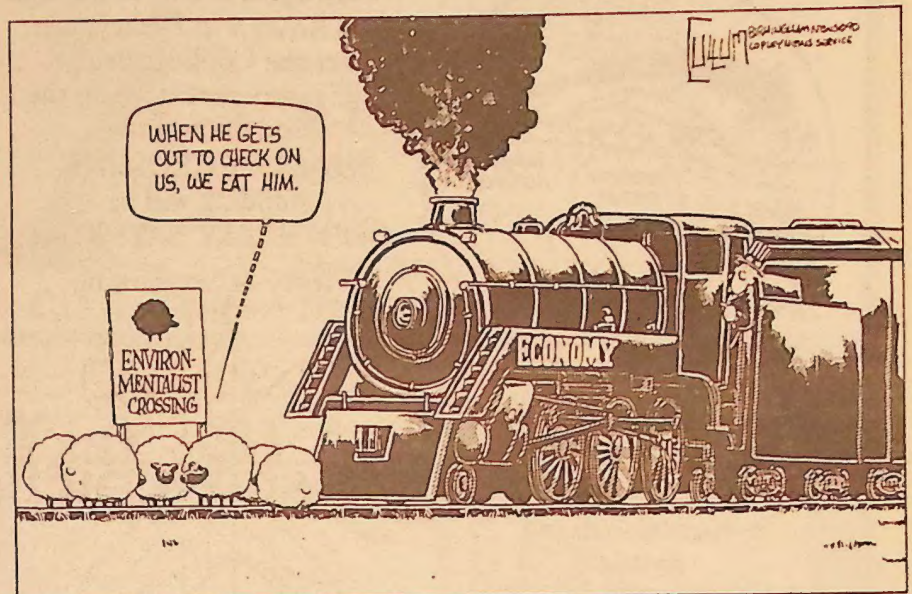
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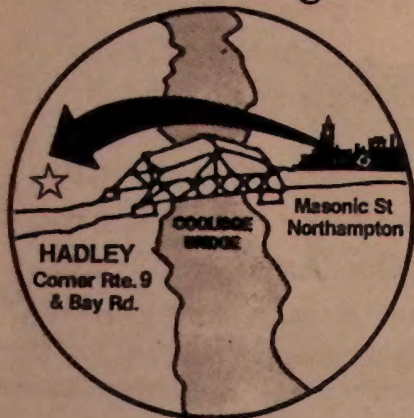
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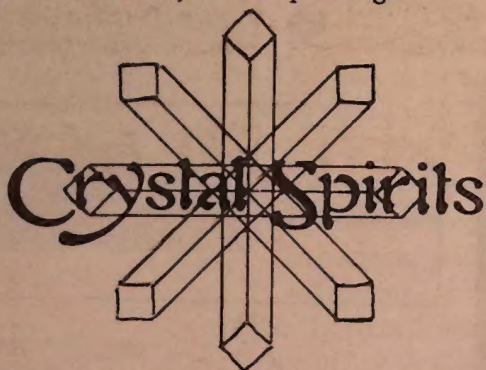


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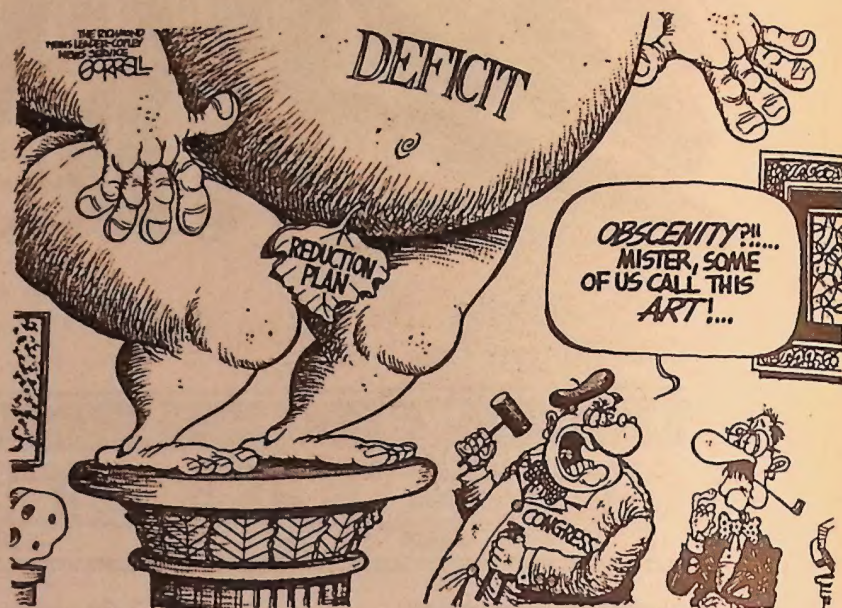
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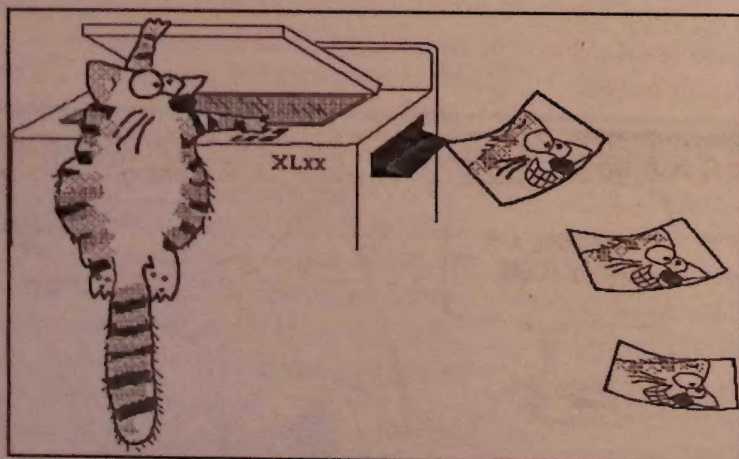


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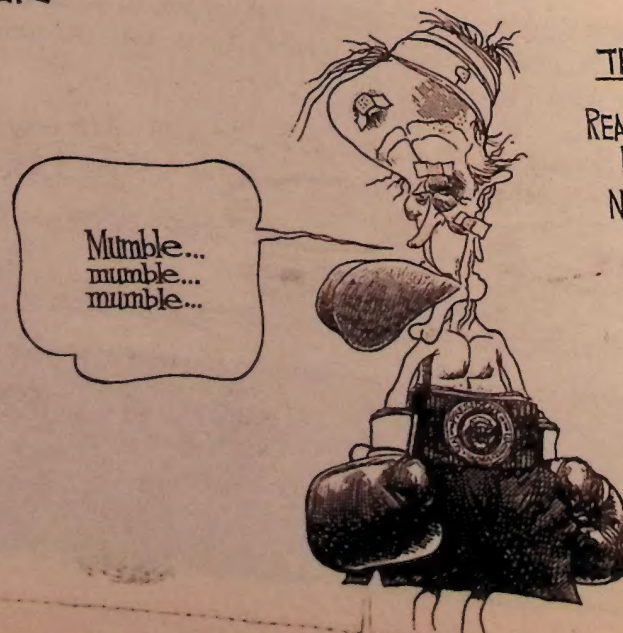
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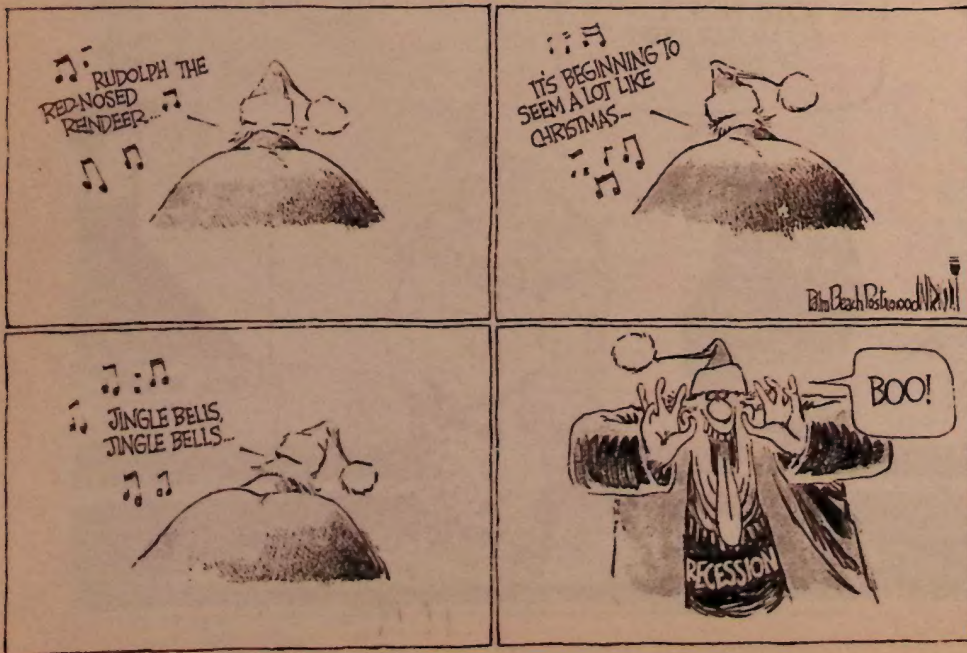
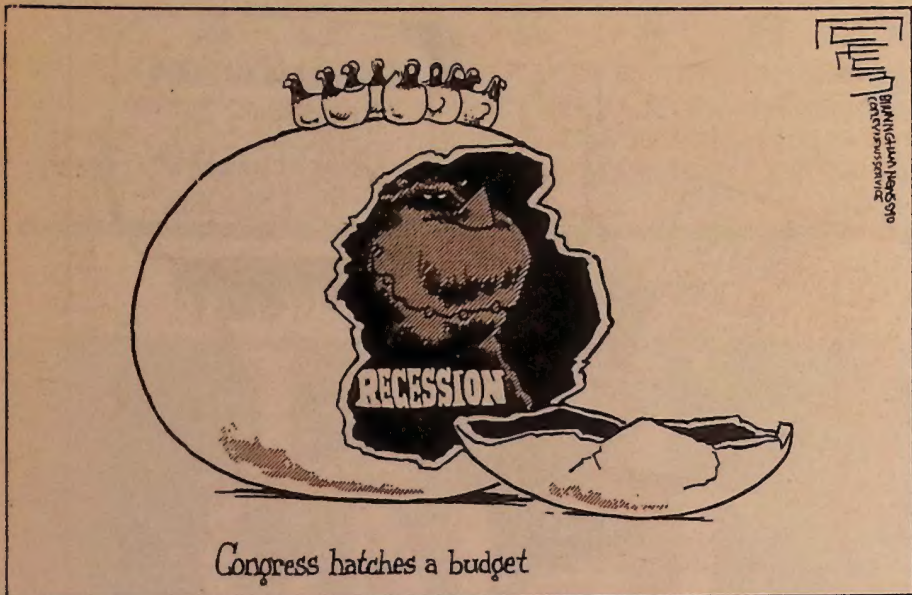


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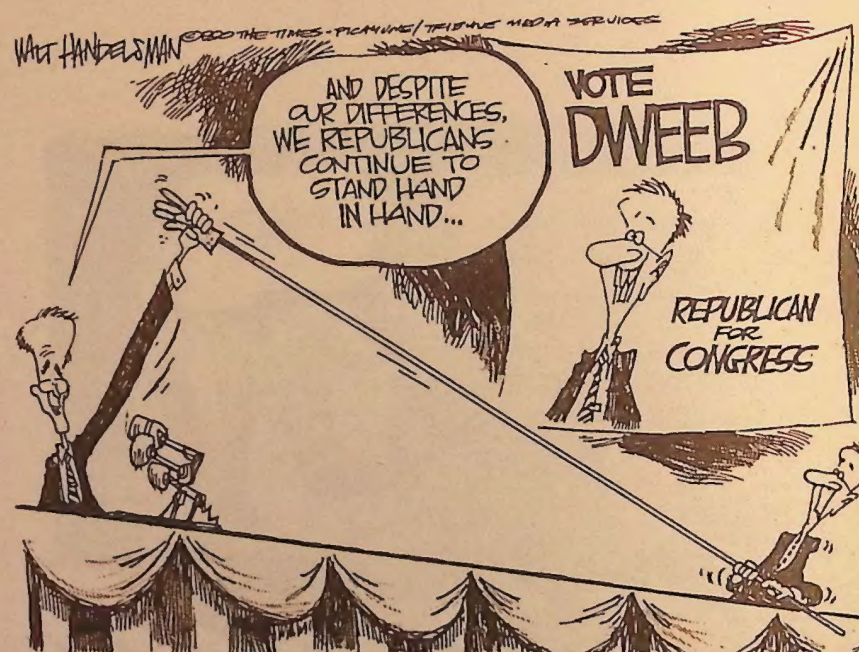
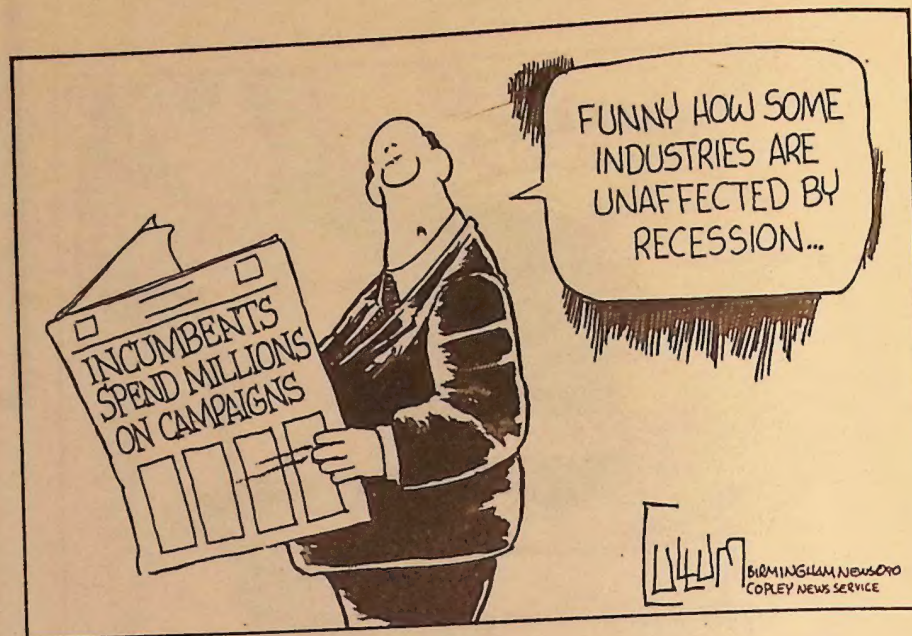
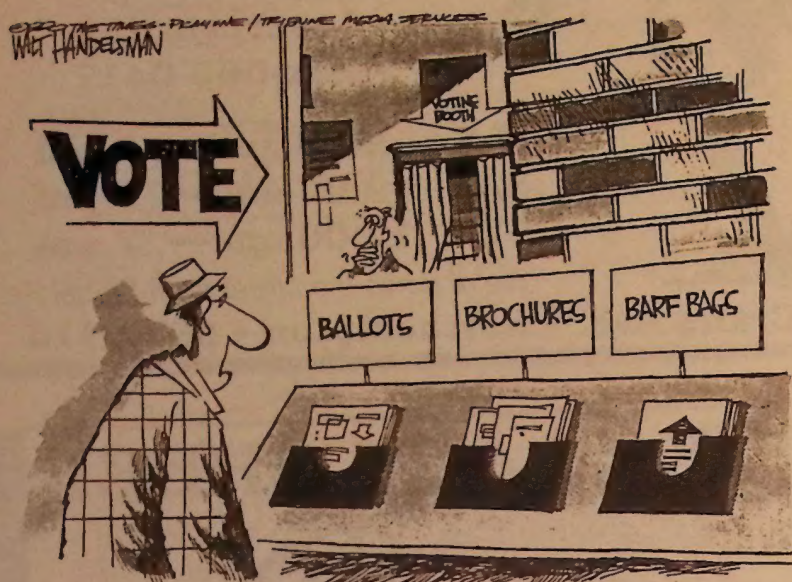
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JOHNNY CLEGG

(Continued from page 6)

watch a community or be in a community enough to see that. You know, ghettos are all over the world, and ethnocentrism exists all over the world. But to see to what extent this is institutionalized and the degree to which this has been made part of the American social structure is very difficult for me to say.

CN: There's been a large increase in the amount of South African music in America since Paul Simon's Graceland album. Do you think that has benefited the cause against apartheid?

JC: Yes, I think it has inadvertently done that.

CN: How do you mean inadvertently?

JC: Basically it has brought attention to South African music and through music it has raised the consciousness of people. You might like Ladysmith Black Mombaza. (The music) gives an emotional connection to a country you've seen on TV but was more of a theoretical abstraction. Now you have a direct emotional connection because you've been to a show and you've seen real live people. You see their humor, you've enjoyed their music, you've enjoyed their lyrics. It's more of a direct relationship.

CN: You've said that it's not the blacks who need to be told that apartheid is wrong, it's the whites, especially the young whites. Is it as important to convey this message to American white kids as it is to South Africans?

JC: Obviously not as important, no. There is a sense of immediacy and urgency in South Africa that is absent here.

CN: Are the kids getting the message?

JC: Yes they are. There is a new emerging subculture in South Africa which you might call Afro-Punk where young kids are experimenting with modes of dress and stuff like that. They're trying to find an identity.

CN: Is that part of the world music outgrowth?

JC: Not really. It's more part and parcel of an identity crisis that young white kids have had to deal with.

CN: Because their past is not their future?

JC: That's correct.

CN: What new music do you listen to? Who do you enjoy?

JC: At the moment I'm listening to people like Youssou N'Dour. I'm listening to Celtic folk music, I'm listening to

American music. I'm listening to a very broad spectrum of sound.

CN: Any American musicians that appeal to you at the moment?

JC: There are a lot of American bands we are touring with that are alternative and interesting but nothing that really grabs me at the moment.

CN: As a kid, besides music, what kinds of things did you play with?

JC: I was madly involved in camping, hiking, fishing. Outdoors things.

CN: Do you still do that?

JC: Occasionally. I enjoy fishing at the sea. I plan to go surf casting soon.

CN: What kinds of things make you laugh? What kind of sense of humor do you have?

JC: I have an English sense of humor.

CN: Which is?

JC: John Cleese-esque. But at the same time I also like certain Keystone Cops American slap-dash. I can actually get into Laurel and Hardy style if I'm in the right mood. Have a good belly laugh, you know.

CN: What kinds of things bring you joy? Where does your joy come from these days?

JC: My joy comes from my show, from dancing, from my son, from my family.

CN: Is your family traveling with you?

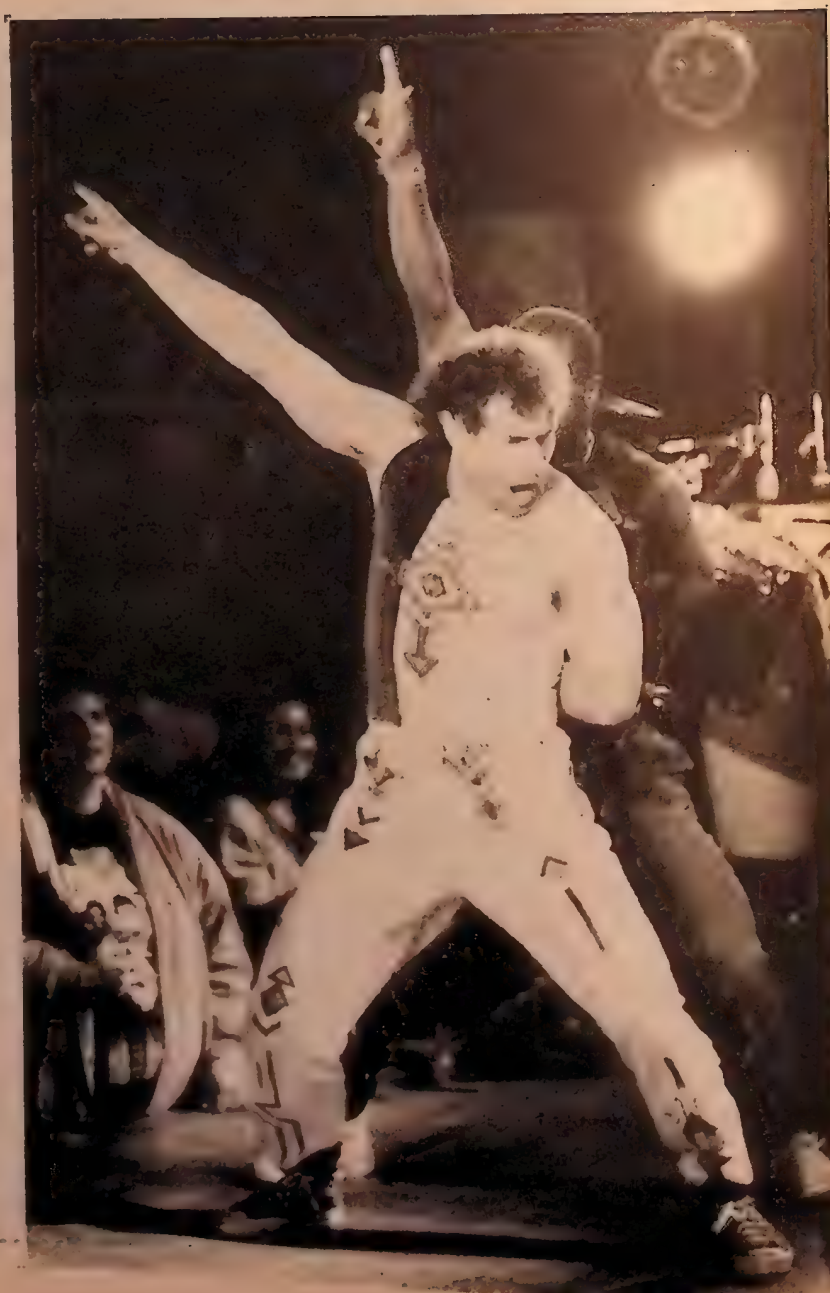
JC: My son is back home. My wife has just arrived. She's here for two weeks.

CN: Do you have any opinion about the Crisis in the Gulf?

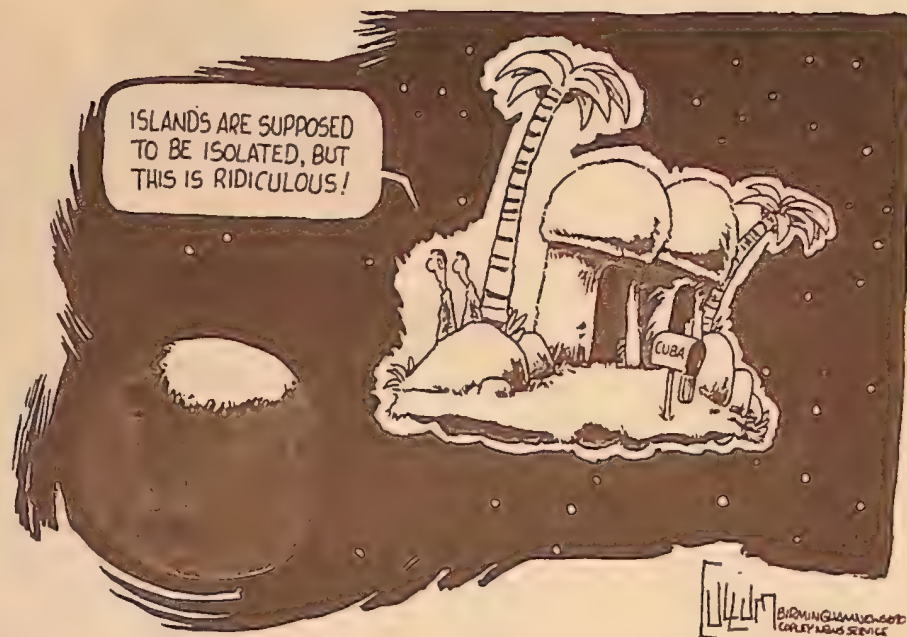
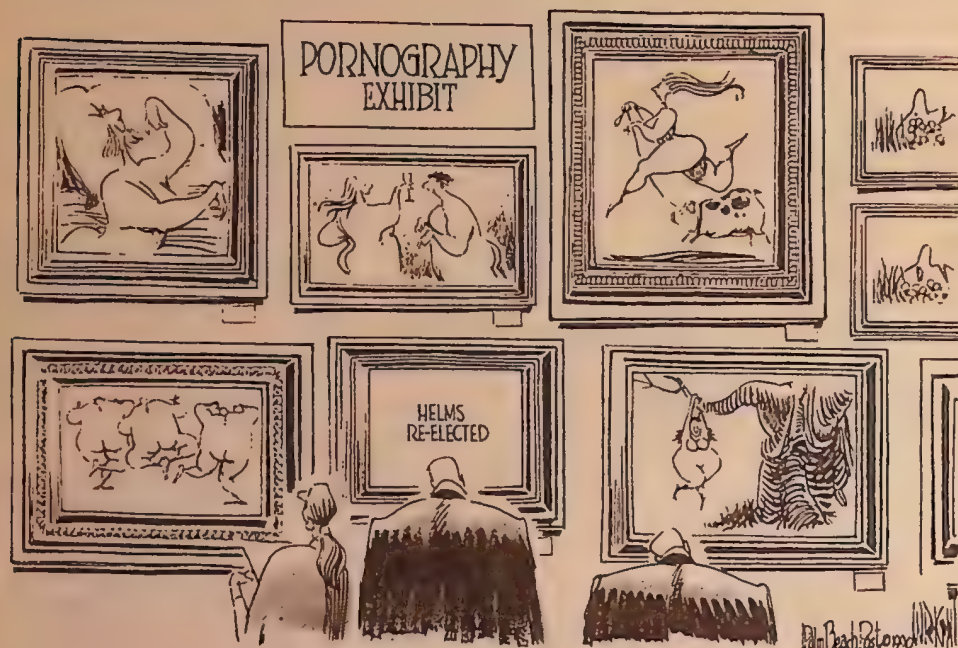
JC: It's clearly an economic crisis. I don't think it's a moral crisis as it's being presented to the world. I think it's clearly a crisis based on oil and economics. The idea of going in to help a country that is taken over by another country is basically a smokescreen. ■

Johnny Clegg and Savuka in Concert at Pearl Street.

This was a great concert. The music was hot, the band was tight and the two hour show was exhilarating. It would have been easy to get lost in the rapture created by the sound and motion of Savuka. But Johnny Clegg was not content to let his important message be carried only on musical notes. In preambles to his songs he educated the audience to the significance of the lyrics or the meaning of the Zulu phrases or how an African rhythm evolved into a pop song. The crowd listened intently, catching it's breath as Clegg spun the threads of his dream into tangible expressions of his vision - world-wide unity thorough diversity. The charismatic Clegg's ability to orchestrate the tempo of the show allowed him to inject the serious nature of his purpose into the evening without lapsing into dullness or cliché. At just the right moment, he'd start the music. The crowd, a little bit more aware, would begin the Pearl Street shuffle, dancing in place, arms in the air, smiles on their faces. ■

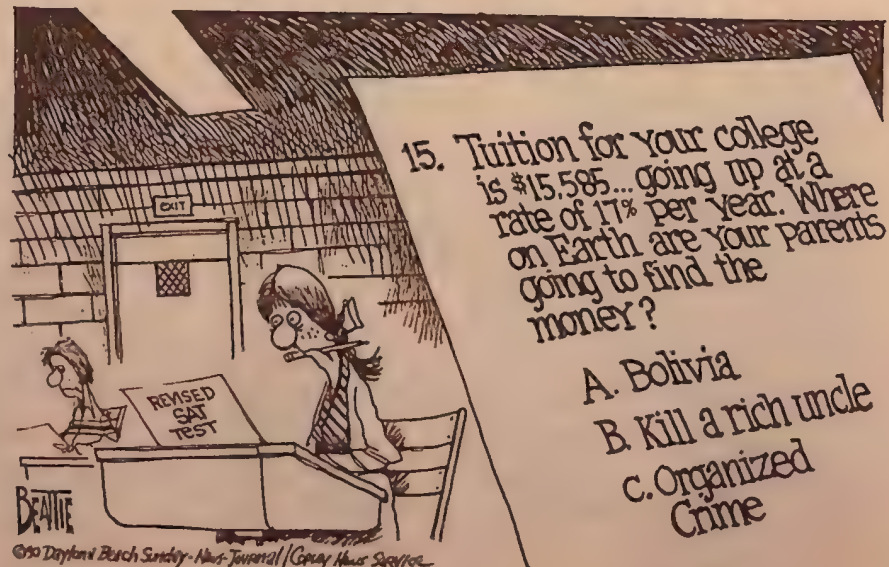
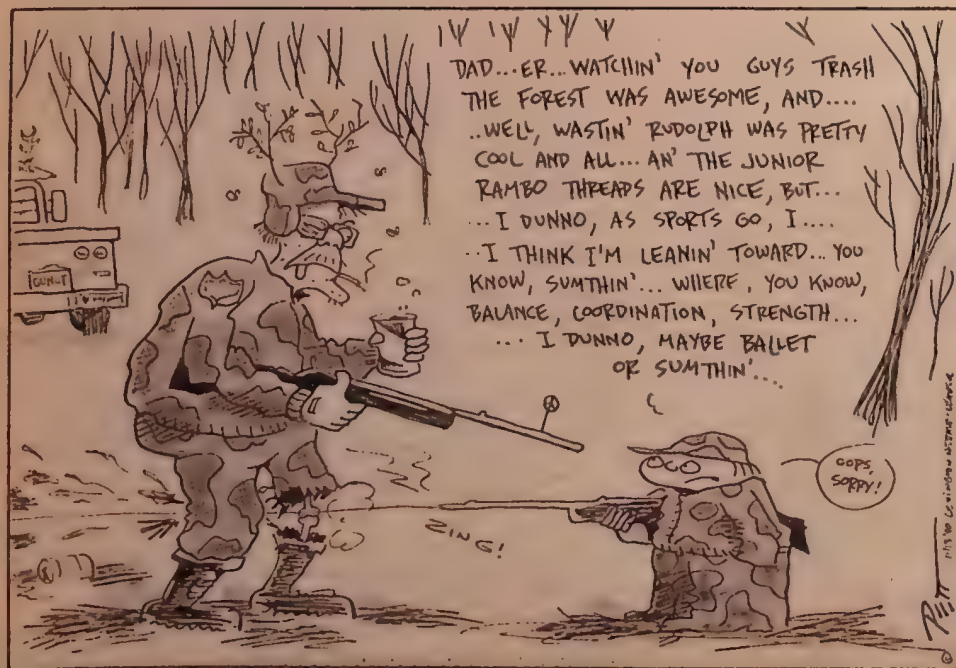


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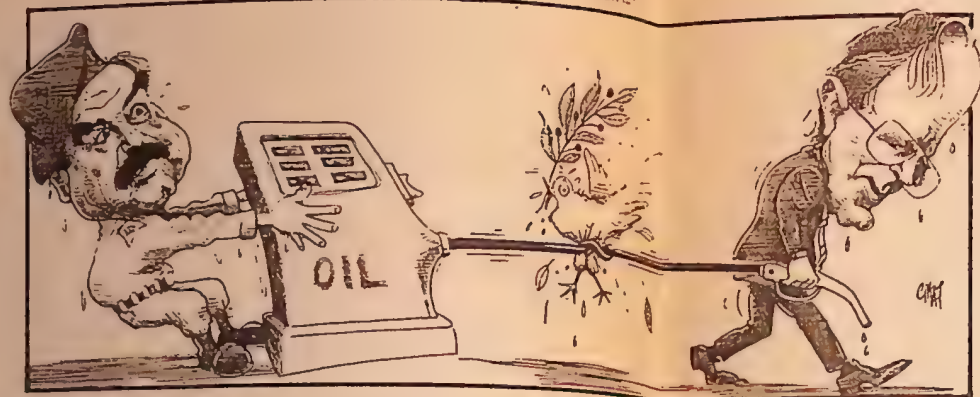


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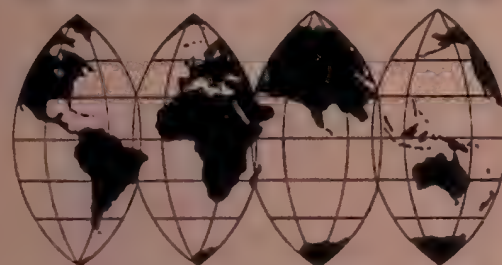
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You have to shuffle seven times to get a true random mix of a 52-card deck, according to the statisticians.

What makes that killer bee so dangerous is it attacks about six times more quickly than does an ordinary bee. It's even more dangerous, though, because it stays angry about 20 times longer.

The Independence Hall clock depicted on the back of a \$100 bill is set at 4:10. I'm told.

Americans today eat eight times more broccoli than they ate 20 years ago.

It's a crime in France for an attorney to take a set percentage of a client's court award.

Football players started putting numbers on their jerseys in the 1920s. A program seller in Pittsburgh arranged to have each player wear a different number every week. So fans would have to buy new programs. Cunning. But it didn't last.

If somebody walks in on you when you're talking to yourself, mention this: Psychiatrists say talking to one's self is a common characteristic among deep thinkers.

Lord Chesterfield said: "Wear your learning as you wear your watch in a private pocket, and do not pull it out and strike it merely to show that you have it."

Three out of 10 laboratory rats get cancer by the time they're three years old, if they live that long.

No less an authority than the National Institute of Mental Health has published the claim that the average first-born child is more intelligent than the child with older brothers and sisters.

Turkey raisers breed and rebreed to produce bulgy-breasted types for white meat. Turkeys now are so cheery they can't get close enough to each other to mate. Saying artificial insemination is for the birds is a little too cute, but that's the curious fact.

In The Netherlands of 1636, you could have paid for a house with three choice tulip bulbs.

That renowned Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky spoke much about war. And how it creates a vortex that swirls disinclined individuals, communities and nations into its flow. He said, "You may not be interested in war, but war is interested in you."

Q. How fast do South American soldier ants march?

A. About a mile every three and a half hours.

FUN FACTS

Men are more likely than women, generally, to die earlier when required to exist alone. That's the common comprehension of statisticians. Partial proof, they say, is the worldwide mortality rate runs twice as high for unmarried men as for married men.

You have to have an ear for music to know when a bee is tired, evidently. While energetic, most bees buzz in the key of "A" When tired, they buzz in "E." Did I mention houseflies hum in "F"?

Houston's air-conditioning bill is bigger than the Gross National Product of many a Third-World nation.

Parking meter fines generate three times as much money, typically, as the parking meters.

"The best women," pre-nosticator. V on horseba least not mu cars, wome men piloted led cars. Wh women fer says our ho squadrons o take off, no crimination,

In China, white death trade deal v U.S. Depar reportedly through Hor eggs a week

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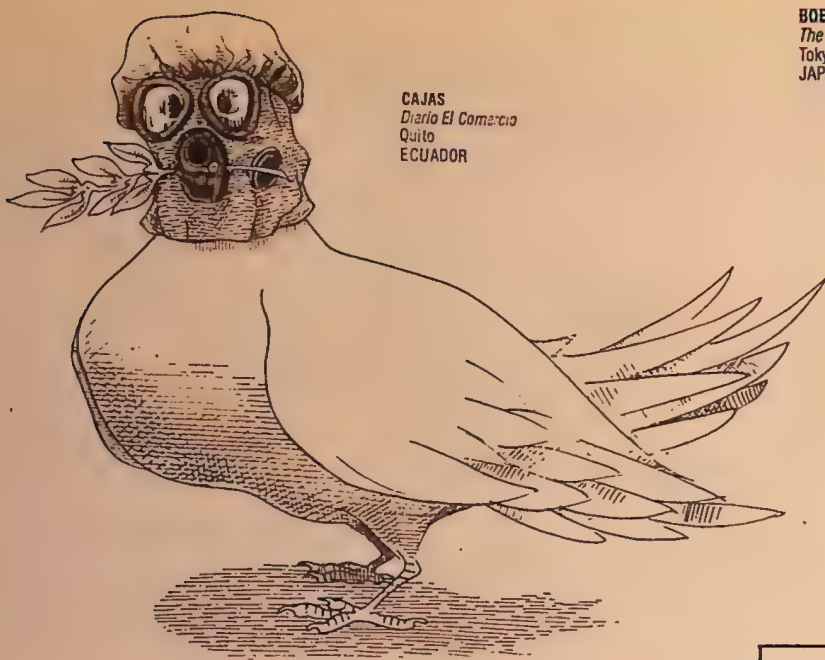
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"The best combat pilots will be women," predicts our Chief Prognosticator. When men went about on horseback, women didn't, at least not much. When men drove cars, women rode horses. When men piloted planes, women handled cars. When men flew fighters, women ferried transports. But, says our house savant, when elite squadrons of female fighter pilots take off, no enemy, not even Discrimination, will beat them,

In China, brown symbolizes life, white death. So in working out a trade deal with the Chinese, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reportedly has agreed to ship through Hong Kong 90,000 dozen eggs a week, all brown.

Car makers dust with ostrich feathers before painting.

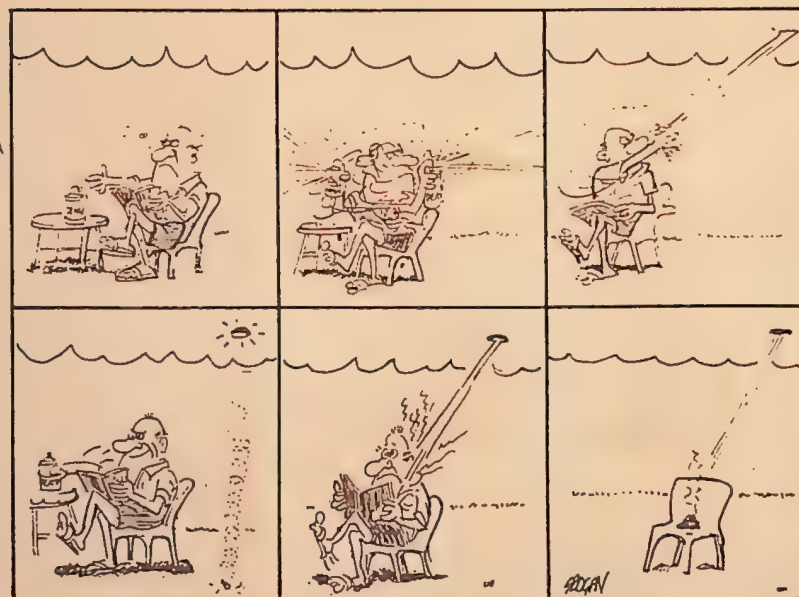
Some colonial Americans who could get ahold of honey brushed their teeth with it.

According to some experts, what really did away with family "togetherness" was central heating. No longer did everybody have to gather in one room to stay warm.

Drink beer after strenuous exercise. So advises a prominent German doctor. In a symposium, he told scientists: Beer is high in carbohydrates and vitamin B. Its malt compensates for sugar deficiency after athletics.

Turtles go back farther than dinosaurs.

GROGAN
Cape Times
Cape Town
SOUTH AFRICA



FACTS

The young couple who wants a baby might wish to know: The more frequently they make love, the more likely they'll have a boy. Such is the claim of researchers at London University Hospital.

Among those who stage the Oberammergau Passion Play of Bavaria, Germany, it was a tradition of almost four centuries for the actress who played the Virgin Mary be a virgin. But they've given up on that.

Five out of every six muscles on a goose control its feathers.

It's in the record now that 38 percent of those surveyed say they clean their navels every day. Why that query was put to the people I do not know. Matter of public interest maybe. But you never hear it asked at a presidential press conference.



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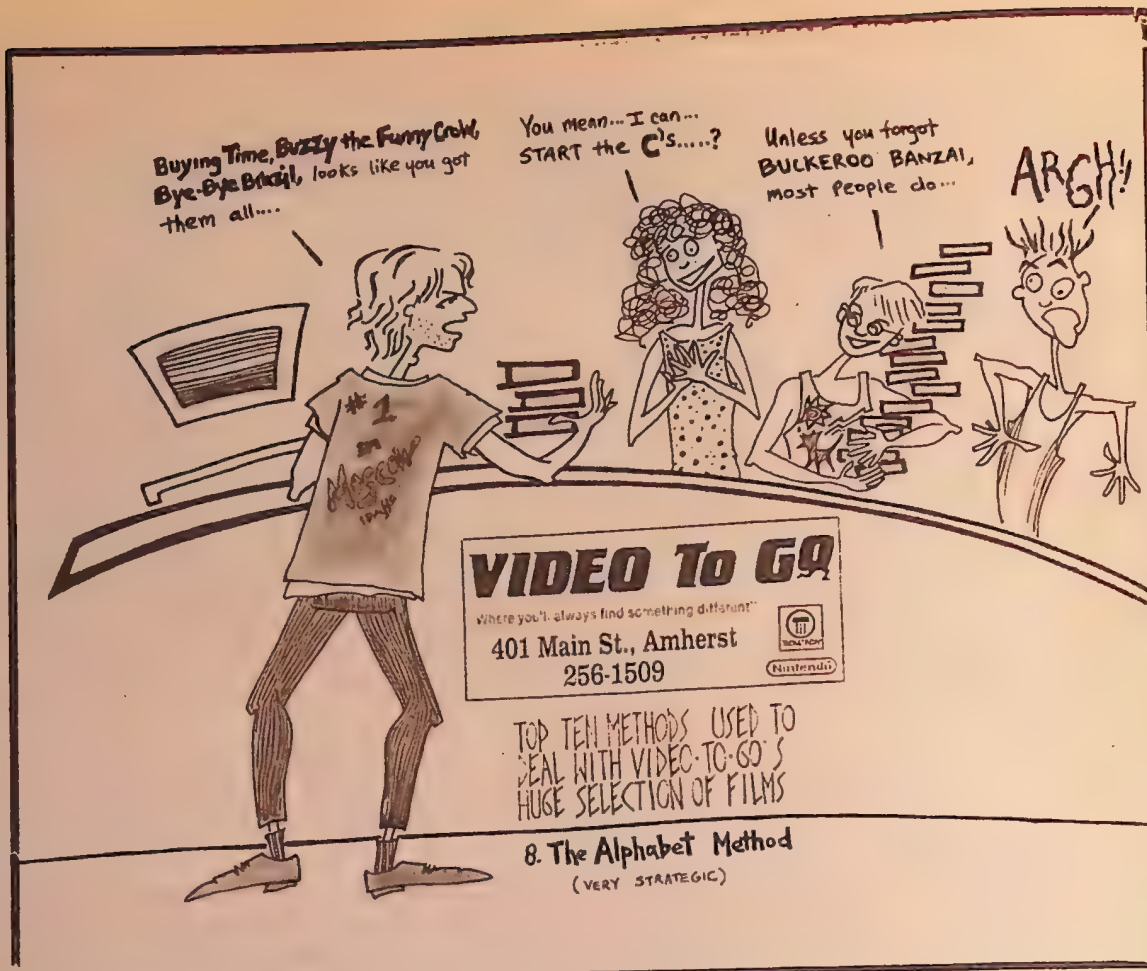
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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Health Masks



The Czechoslovak news agency CTK reported that most children in the far northeast corner of the country will go to school equipped with anti-pollution masks as of November 5. The region is one of the most polluted in central Europe, and 23,000 masks have been supplied free to its children to protect their lungs from sulphur dioxide and dust emitted by local coal-burning power stations. The number of children affected by respiratory diseases there is said to be three to four times higher than in the rest of the country.

Still Alive



Two Manchurian tigers, thought to have become extinct in the Chinese wild, were found living in the northeast of the country. Three forest workers observed a young tiger at play with his mother on the northern slope of Mount Changbai in Jilin province. China was estimated to have had more than 80 of the tigers in the late 1960s, but deforestation and poaching of their prey has brought the number down to an endangered few.

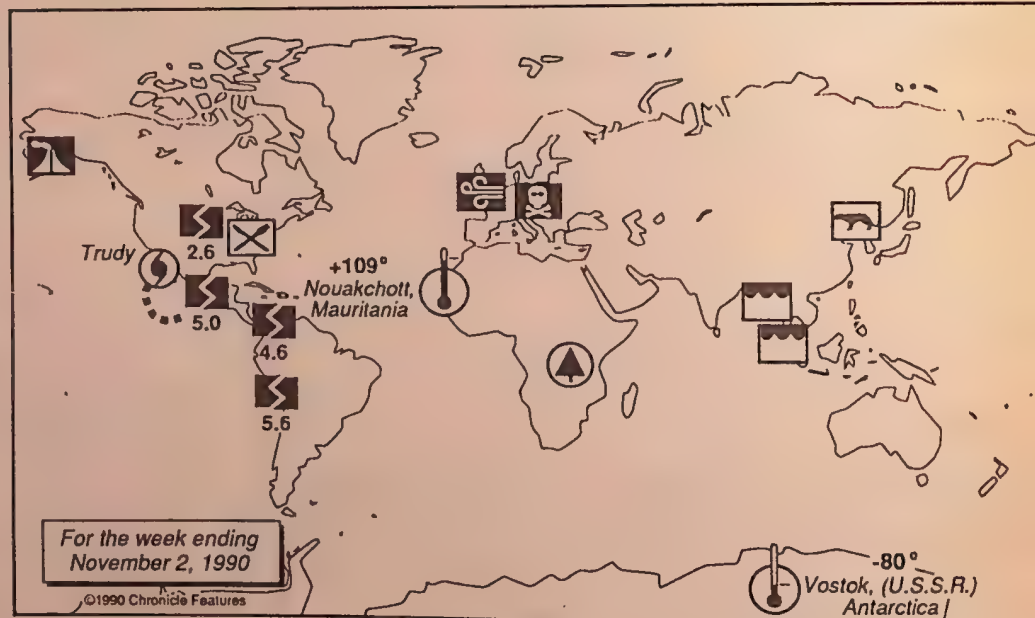
Redoubt Slumbers



Alaska's Redoubt Volcano, which ended a regular eruptive phase six months ago, began steaming and emitting small amounts of ash. Volcano observers carefully referred to the activity as "steaming events," rather than eruptions. The steaming began with the season's first snow in August, but only in recent days have the plumes borne ash.

Earthquakes

In an unusually quiet week for seismic activity, earth movements were felt in northern Colombia, northern Chile, Mexico's Guerrero coast and south-eastern Missouri.



Floods



Heavy rains in northern Indonesia flooded 30 villages and forced hundreds to flee their homes. Many newly planted crops were ruined.

There was another round of flash flooding in southern Bangladesh when severe thunderstorms brought the Meghna and Tattulia rivers over their banks. In the district of Bhola, 15,000 people were stranded by the rising waters, and about 800 acres of crops were washed away.

Atlantic Storm



High winds and torrential rains from a trans-Atlantic storm battered the British Isles and northeastern Europe. Six people died in southern England when two cars collided during one of the downpours. Parts of Northern Ireland were inundated, and rivers burst their banks, sweeping away three bridges. The main Belfast highway was closed by the storm.

Tropical Storms



Hurricane Trudy dissipated off Baja California after churning the Pacific for two weeks. November 1 marked the end of the hurricane season in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico, but was the official beginning of the tropical cyclone season in Australia. The 1990 hurricane season left the U.S. mainland free of any significant tropical storm damage.

War Deforestation



The Rwanda army is systematically burning the forest in the northeast of the country in a bid to prevent rebel forces from advancing south, according to a reporter from Agence France-Presse. The tiny East African country recently has been embroiled in a bloody war between ethnic Tutsis, who entered the country from neighboring Uganda, and the army of President Juvenal Habyarimana's Hutu regime.


Junkies



Raccoons who feed on candy bars, snack cakes, and fast food suffer the same consequences as humans — rotten teeth and high cholesterol, researchers say. Scientists were shocked by results from a small sampling of the masked mischief-makers that roam Illinois parks and campgrounds, scavenging human food. "Their mouths look like those pictures in the dentist's office that show what will happen if you don't brush," said Laura Hungerford, a University of Illinois veterinarian. "I think they must have a lot of sugar in their diet." Based on the research, park officials modified many trash containers so raccoons cannot get into them easily, but the addicted animals have learned that people will still bring them food.


Additional Sources: Australian Bureau of Meteorology, World Meteorological Organization, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, and the U. S. Earthquake Information Center.

Greenhouse Effects


 An Australian government report announced that heavier rainfall and warmer temperatures resulting from the greenhouse effect will cause more asthma, infectious diseases, and possibly cancer. The report looks at life 40 years from now based on best estimates of the effects of global warming and depletion of the ozone layer. It also suggests there will be more natural disasters — cyclones that strike Australia further south than ever before, with fires and flooding raging in other areas.

Global warming should add to the ice in Antarctica rather than make it melt, but world sea levels are still expected to rise by up to three feet over the next century, according to scientists at a U.N. conference. John Houghton, chief of the British Meteorological Office, said that Antarctica is now too cold to get very much snow, but warming will result in a larger ice pack. Others at the conference concluded that the ocean levels will still rise because the Greenland ice sheet and glaciers of the northern polar region will melt due to warmer global temperatures.

Earthquakes

 A powerful temblor measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale hit a mountainous area of southern Iran, killing more than 20 people and leaving 21,000 homeless. Earth movements were also felt in the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya, the Mariana Islands, the Aleutian Islands, and along the California and Nevada border.


Eruption

 Without warning, Mount St. Helens rumbled to life, shaking violently and sending an ash cloud soaring 30,000 feet above Washington State. Scientists called it a minor eruption, but it was the strongest to occur during the past 10 months. Chris Trisler, a spokeswoman at the University of



Washington Geophysics Lab in Seattle, said the blast may have destroyed two seismic monitoring stations on the north side of the lava dome. However, Trisler noted that a telemetry station atop the dome was still intact — a clear sign that a major eruption had not occurred.


November Storms

 Fierce storms lashing the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul killed at least five people. Flood-swollen rivers in Porto Alegre swept three of the victims to their deaths.


Landslides, flooding, and high surf in central and northern Japan killed nine people and left two others missing. Five fishermen were drowned when huge waves washed them from shore into the sea at Shizuoka, 80 miles southwest of Tokyo.

Arctic winds whipped up snow squalls from the Rocky Mountains to the U.S. Great Plains in a marked change of seasons for the region.

Aphid Attack


 The Kenyan government says about 8.6 billion dollars worth of cedar and cypress trees are threatened by a plague of aphids. Environment Minister Njoroge Mungai said the insects threatened 900,000 acres of forest, and that "the situation demands continued spraying."

Elephant Cull

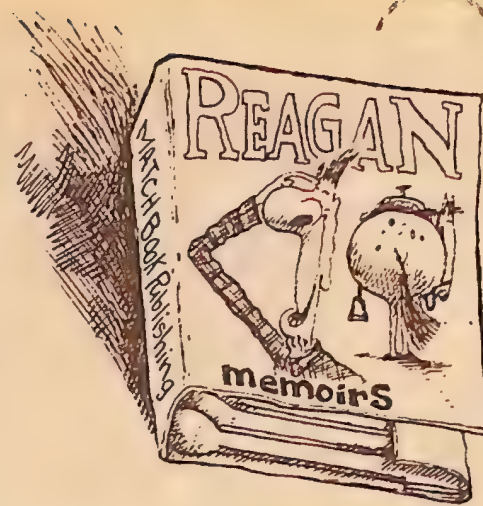
 Elephants are being brought close to extinction by ivory hunters in many parts of Africa, but Zimbabwe announced that 4,000 must be killed before the end of the year to avoid an ecological catastrophe. The elephant population in the Hwange National Park near the Zambian border is believed to be 27,000, and growing at a rate of five percent per year. Wildlife experts fear that this growing number threatens the survival of other species, and could result in deforestation and soil erosion. Almost

12,000 elephants have been killed in Zimbabwe since 1980, but the government says it halted the culling four years ago, mainly because of a lack of experienced hunters.

Star Dust

 Particles from disintegrating comets, rich in amino acids and other organic compounds, may have rained onto prehistoric Earth, seeding the planet with ingredients necessary for primordial life to form. Scientists at NASA's Ames Research Center published a report in the British journal *Nature* that theorizes the breakup of giant comets in the inner solar system could have produced clouds rich in the molecular building-blocks of life. As Earth sailed through those clouds in its orbit around the sun, the dust could have made it to the surface without burning up in the atmosphere, according to the article.

Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.



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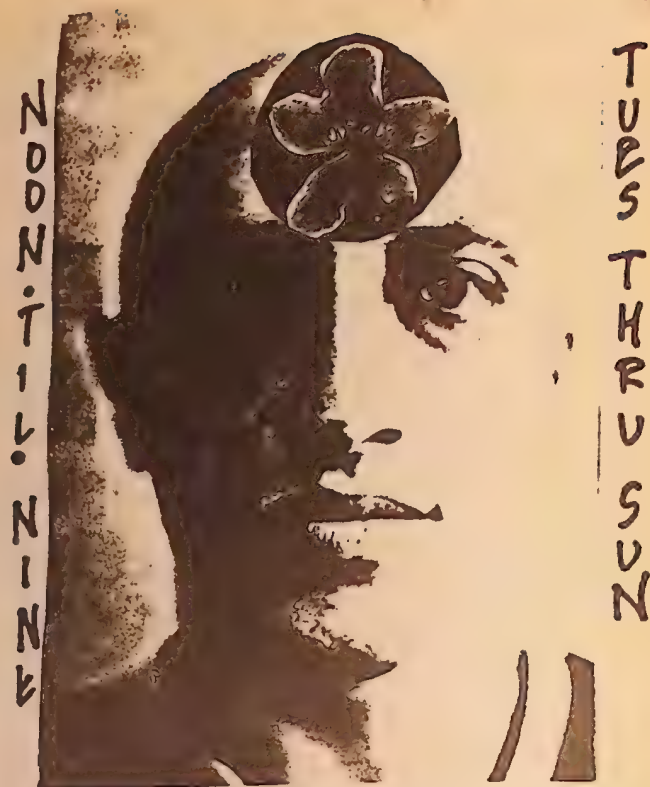
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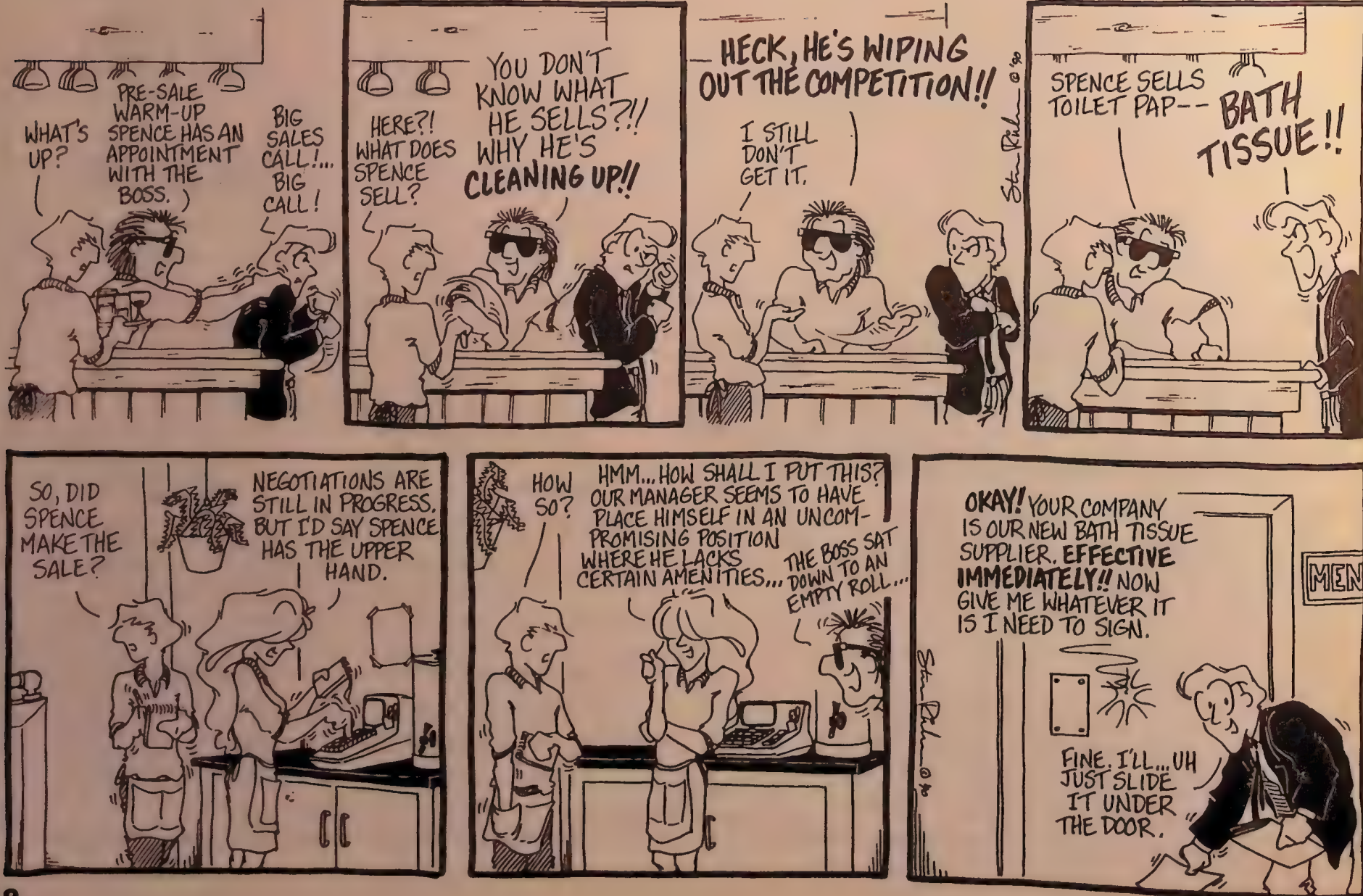
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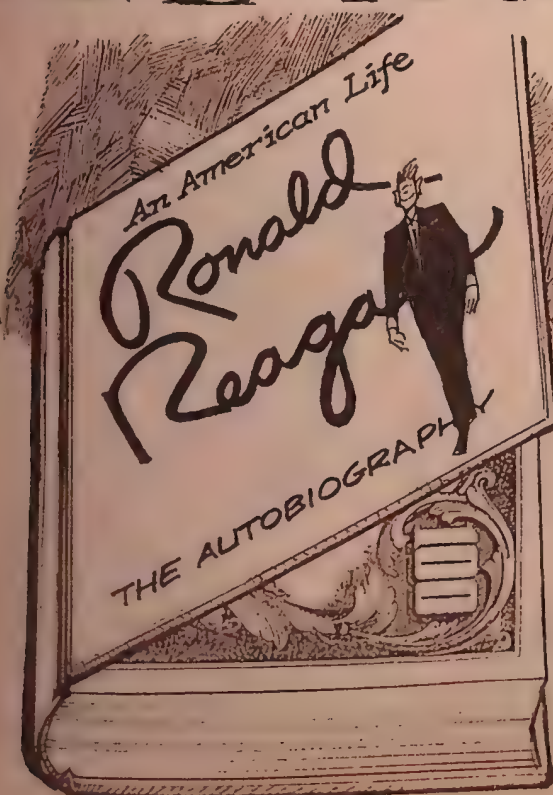


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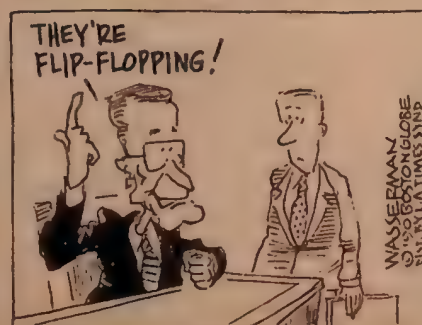
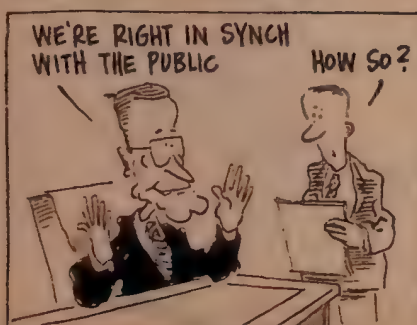
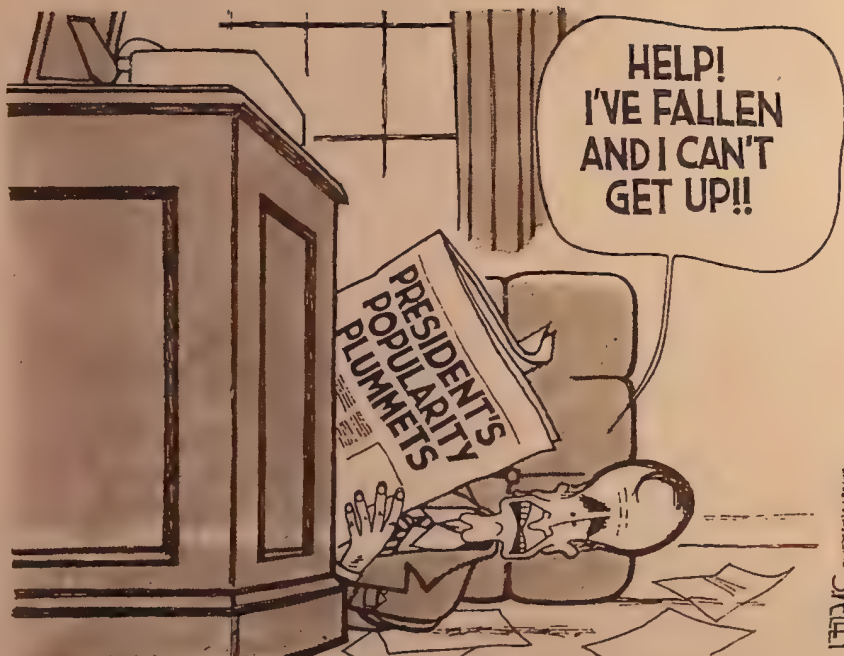
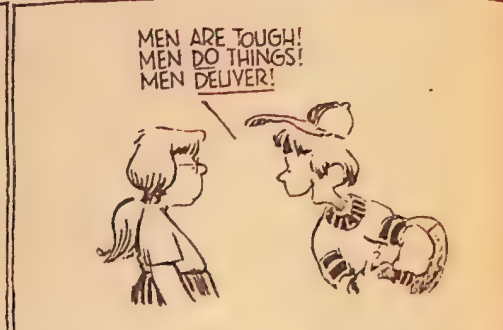
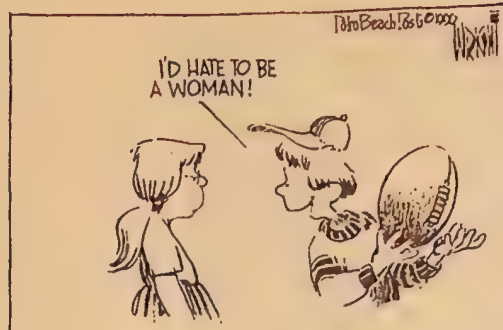
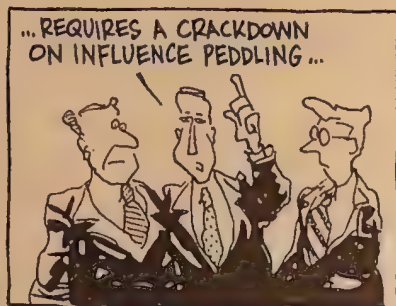


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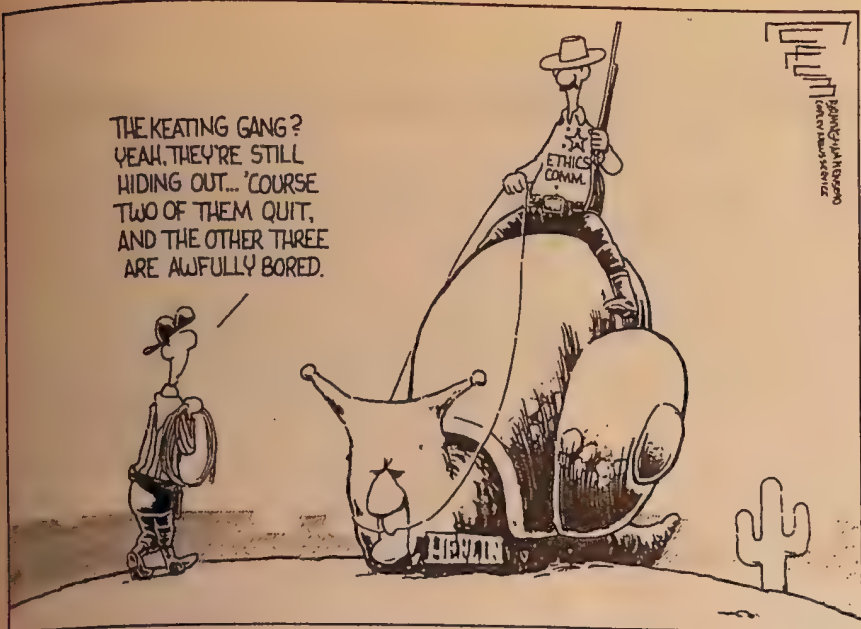
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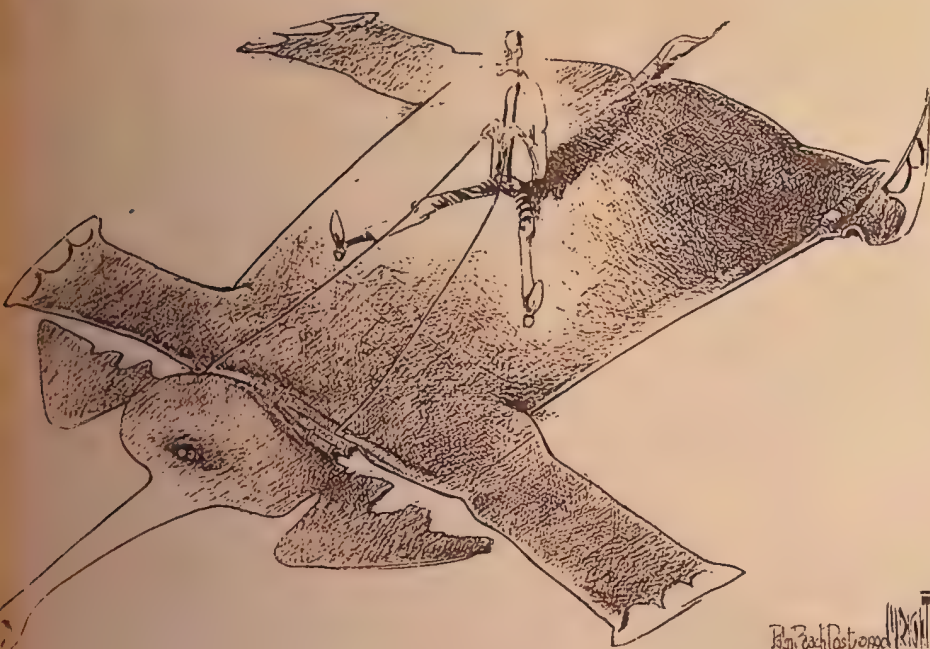
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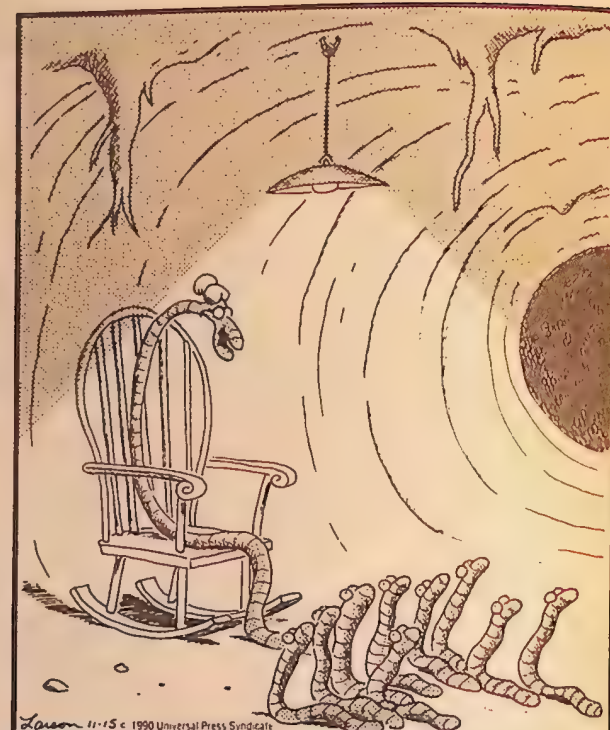
By GARY LARSON



And so it went, night after night, year after year. In fact, the Hansens had been in a living hell ever since that fateful day the neighbor's "For Sale" sign had come down and a family of howler monkeys had moved in.



Luckily, Eddie had stumbled upon a rare variety of deadly nightshade, the amicable *Atropa belladonna congenialocus*. (Later that same day, however, he blundered into some poison oak — a flat-out intolerant species.)



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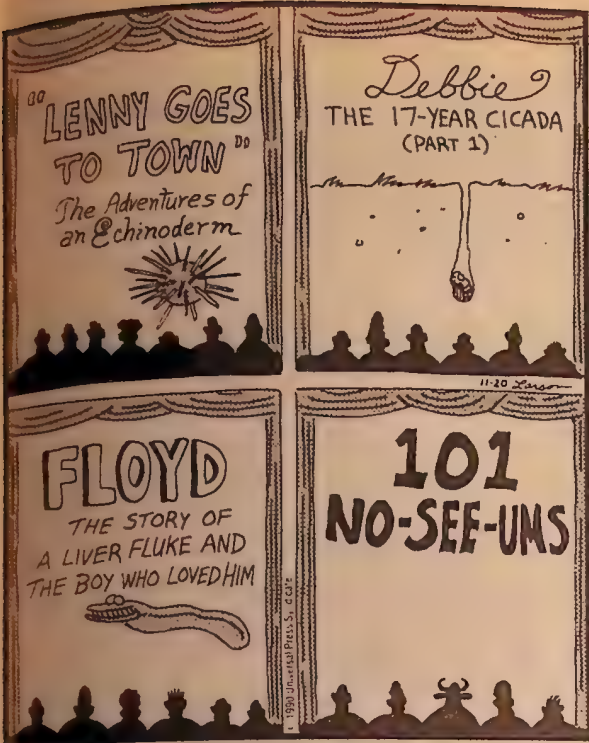
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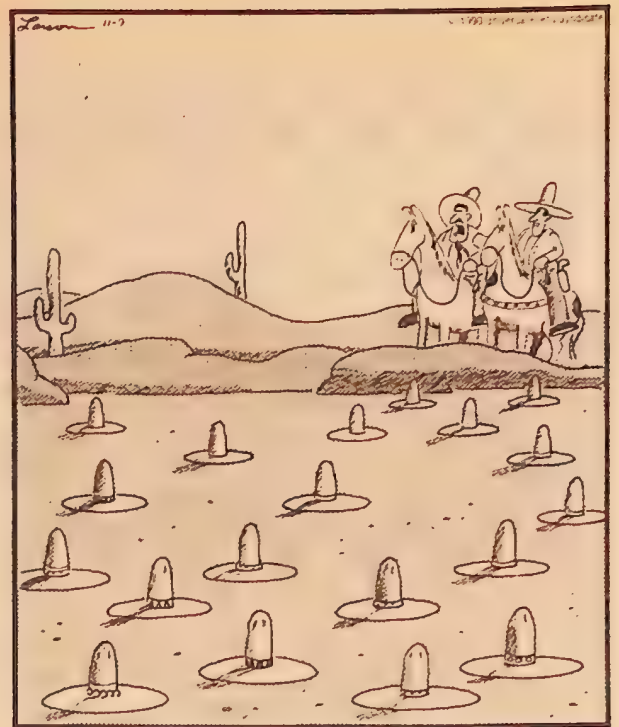




Nature films that Disney test-marketed but never released.



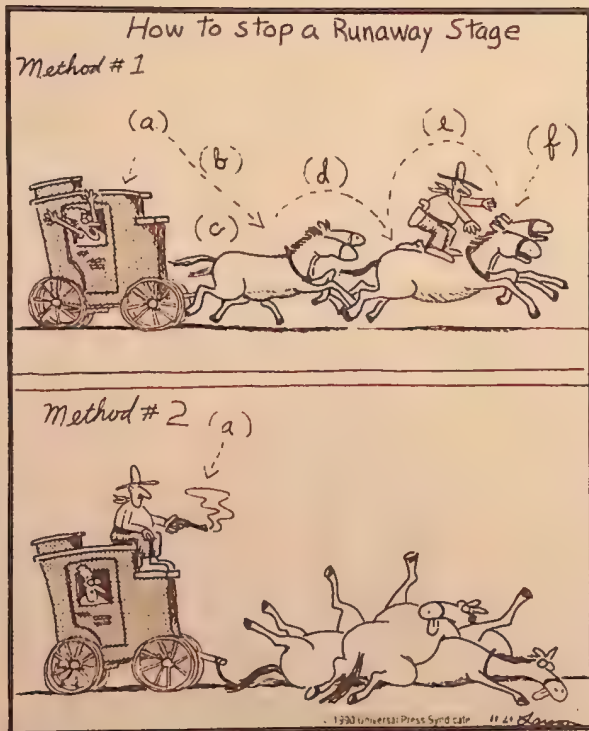
In a recurring nightmare, Arsenio Hall sees himself walk onstage wearing golf clothes.



"We must be careful, Cisco! . . . Thees could be the eenfamous Queek Sand Beds of Chihuahua."



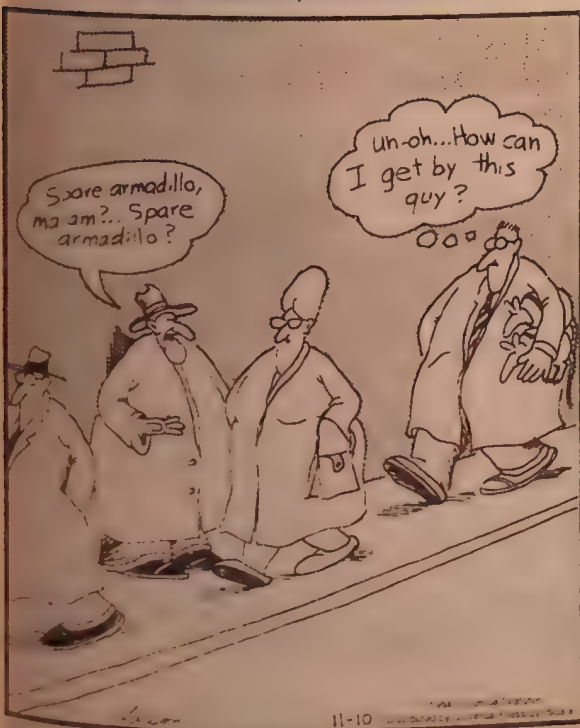
The party-goers were enjoying themselves immensely — unaware that, across the street in the shadows, a killer waited.



From the book "Guide to Western Stuff."



"Hold still, Omar. . . . Now look up. Yep. You've got something in your eye, all right — could be sand."



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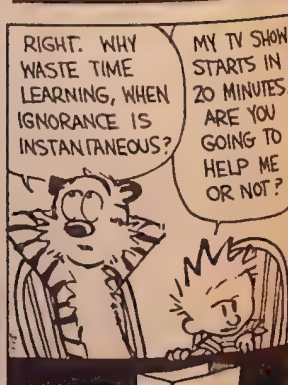
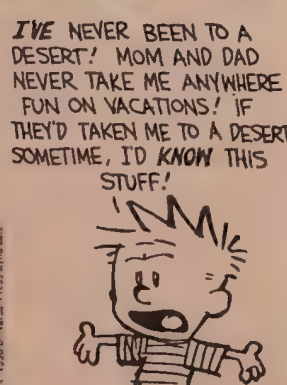
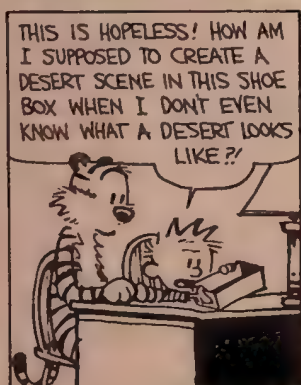
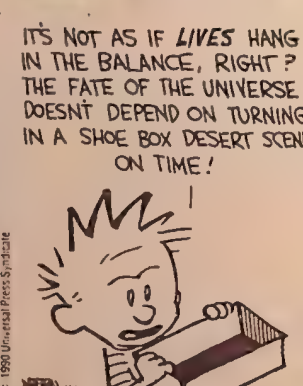
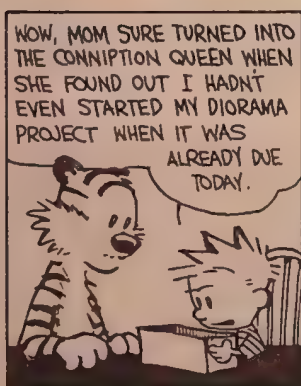
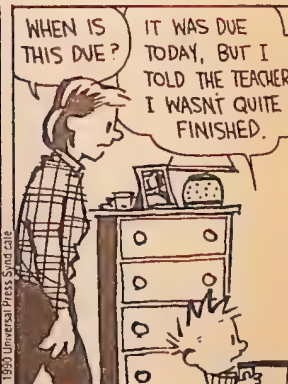
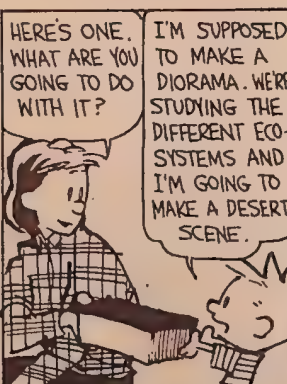
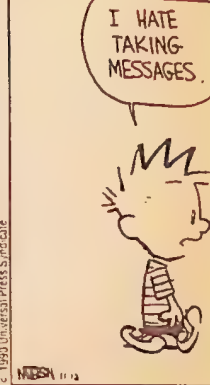
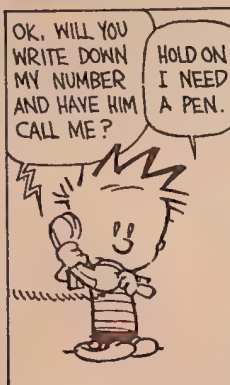
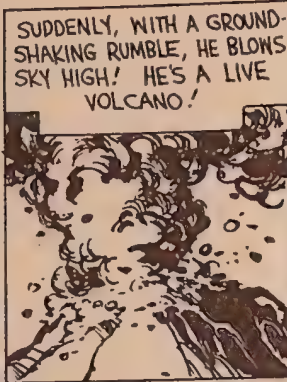
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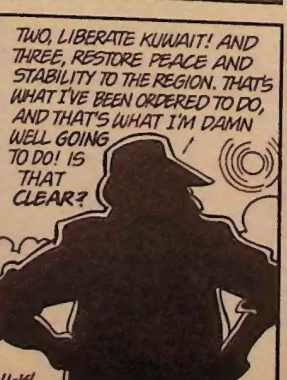
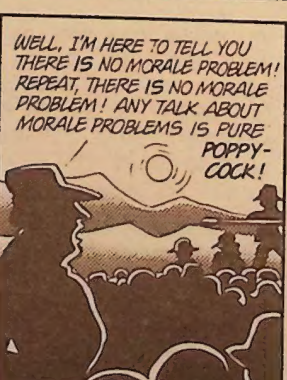
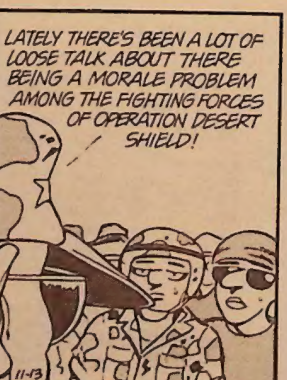
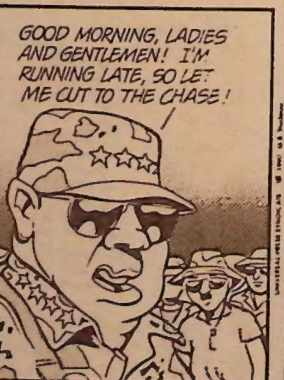
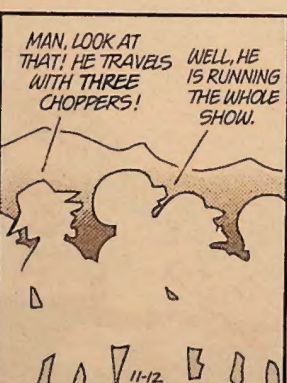
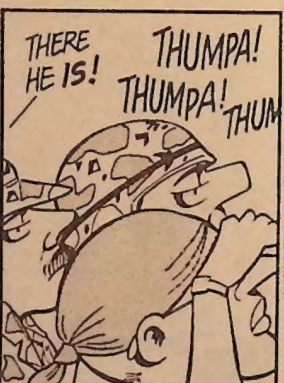
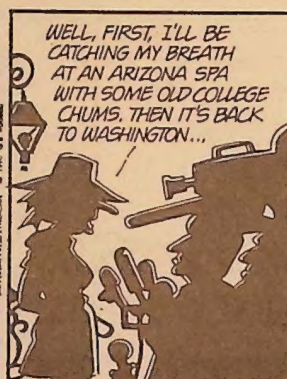


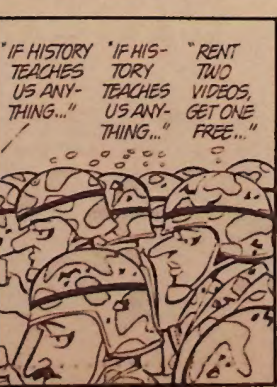
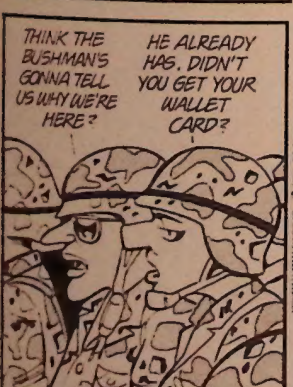
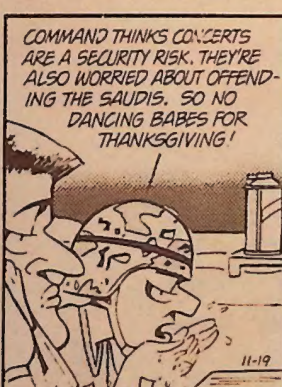
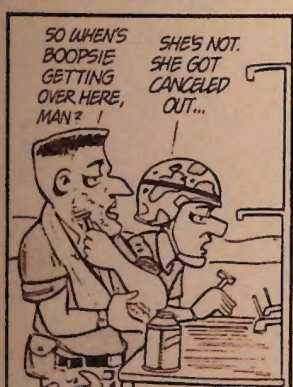
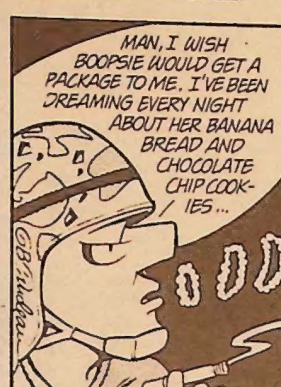
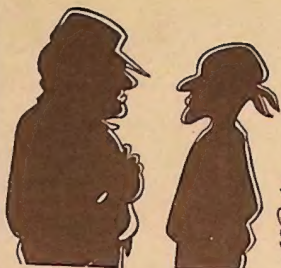
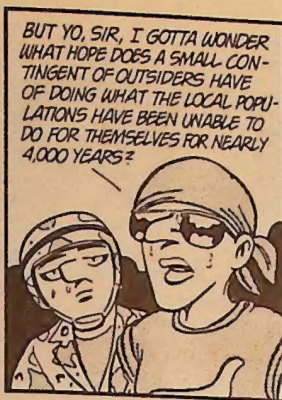
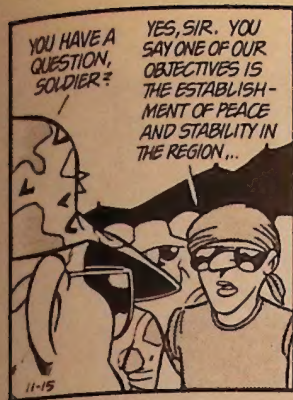
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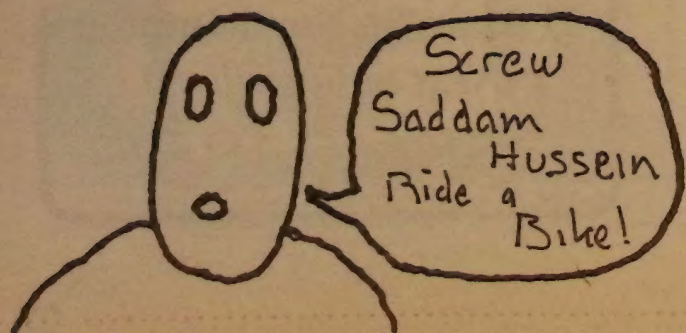
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